

**LLANFYLLIN  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE

**YEAR 1948.**

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CARTREF,

LLANFAIR CAEREINION.

4/10/1949.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llanfyllin Rural  
District Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report dealing with the Vital Statistics, Health and Sanitary Circumstances of your district, for the year 1948.

The General Health appears to have been maintained at a satisfactory level and the Vital and Other Statistics, have not varied greatly when compared to those of previous years.

Heart Decease and Cancer again account for a high proportion of deaths as is to be expected in a community where the expectation of life is in the region of 70 years. Many Schemes for the erection of much required and urgently needed houses have been completed or are near completion and it is to be hoped that national financial considerations will not hold up the erection of and the completion of the houses which these schemes envisage.

During the year the new health act came into force with its far reaching and widely embracing provisions for the improvement of general health.

Truly a revolutionary measure, it must meet with initial difficulties but these, with mutual goodwill and active unselfish co-operation, should be overcome and the act made a success to the physical and mental well-being and happiness of every member of the community.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank your Clerk and his staff and also your Sanitary Inspector and his staff for all the help and guidance they have given me during the year and for their active co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to remain Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. MILTON JONES,

M.B., Ch.B.



## SECTION "A."

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District—163,477 Acres.

Number of Inhabited Houses—2,879.

Registrar General's estimate of Population for year 1948—  
10,344.

Rateable Value—£55,027.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£226

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1948.

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<b>Live Births</b>	{ Legitimate	... 94	73	} 186
	{ Illegitimate	... 11	8	

Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population—18·02.

Birth Rate for England and Wales ... —17·9

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
<b>Still Births</b>	{ Legitimate	... —	1	} 1
	{ Illegitimate	... —	—	
Rate per thousand total births				... —5·30
Still Birth Rate per thousand of the estimated population—0·09.				
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales				... —0·42.

**Deaths.** Males—65; Females—78; Total—143.

Death Rate per thousand of the estimated population—13·8.

Death Rate for England and Wales—10·8.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	1	4	} 7
Illegitimate	...	...	1	1	

*Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—*

All Infants per thousand Live Births—37·6.

Infants (Legitimate) per thousand Live Births—26·8.

Infants (Illegitimate) per thousand Live Births—10·8.

Death Rate of Infants for England and Wales—34.

## Maternal Mortality.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child Birth :—

From Sepsis—1 ; From other causes—Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per thousand Total Births—5.3.

Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales—1.02

The maternal death which appears to have been due to Thrombosis appears to have occurred in Hospital.

Deaths from Cancer—

Male—8 ; Female—17 ; Total—25.

Average age at death of those dying from Cancer—64.6 years.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—1.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)—Nil.

Number of Deaths occurring in Public Institutions—28.

Percentage of such Deaths—19.6.

Average age at death of those who died in the area (excluding deaths under one year)—69.5.

Average age, at death, of all deaths attributable to the area (excluding deaths under one year)—66.4.

Average age at death of those who died from Tuberculosis (all forms)—48 years.

## Maternal Mortality.

The death of one woman, at the age of 25 years, was notified as having taken place in a hospital where the patient had been confined.

An increasing number of expectant mothers continue to seek admission into Hospitals for the occasion of their confinements with consequent pressure upon the somewhat limited local Hospital accommodation.

Ante Natal supervision of expectant mothers appears to be good but the system of Ante Natal clinics could be extended with corresponding advantage to mothers and those in charge of such work.

## Infantile Mortality.

There were seven deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. Of these two were males and five were females. Five of these deaths were due to prematurity, three being females and two being males. Ages at death varied from one hour to two months the latter death—a female, being due to Whooping Cough.

The following is the Registrar General's detailed list of the various causes of death, together with numbers and sex, allocated to the area during the year 1948 :—

			<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females</i>
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis (of the Respiratory System)	...	...	3	1
Influenza	...	...	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	8	17
Diabetes	...	...	—	2
Intracranial Vascular Lesions...	...	...	5	8
Heart Disease	...	...	21	21
Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	2	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1	3
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	2	1
Nephritis	...	...	4	4
Maternal Causes (Puerperium)	...	...	—	1
Premature Birth	...	...	2	3
Diseases of Infancy	...	...	1	—
Suicide	...	...	—	1
Other Violent Causes	...	...	2	—
All Other Causes	...	...	12	12
			—	—
	Totals	...	65	78

Of these deaths 80 were 70 years and upwards, and of these, 36 were over 80 years of age.



The following Table summarizes the Vital Statistics of the District  
for the Years 1930—48.

Year	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Births (Live <i>and</i> Still),	
	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Death Rate from Tub- erculosis	Death Rate from Cancer	Maternal Mortality Rate	Rate of Deaths under 1 year
1930	18.8	11.5	.7	1.9	Nil	63
1931	18.0	13.6	.68	1.63	9.5	81
1932	20.1	14.4	.43	1.88	8.5	51
1933	14.1	14.6	.43	2.25	Nil	55
1934	15.7	13.8	.53	2.28	5.37	100
1935	16.2	12.9	.62	1.4	Nil	41.6
1936	14.1	13.1	.54	1.8	5.7	53.8
1937	13.7	14.6	.63	2.1	6.17	46.6
1938	15.05	12.65	.64	1.38	11.9	49.1
1939	16.4	14.65	.27	1.9	Nil	89.4
1940	11.8	16.7	.46	2.8	Nil	85.1
1941	14.3	15.09	.42	1.04	5.3	61.9
1942	15.3	15.1	.53	2.3	Nil	46.2
1943	17.1	11.9	.09	1.9	Nil	31.6
1944	17.3	14.1	.28	2.0	5.3	44.2
1945	18.52	13.53	.38	2.0	Nil	41.4
1946	15.25	13.1	.38	2.2	Nil	37.5
1947	17.76	13.6	.56	2.4	Nil	32.6
1948	18.02	13.8	.30	2.4	5.3	37.6

## SECTION "B."

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. (a) One Part Time Medical Officer of Health.
- (b) One Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor who also acts as Food Inspector.
- (c) One unqualified Assistant Sanitary Inspector.
- (d) General Nursing Services and there control are now the concern of the County Council, the various nursing committees having been superseded under the terms of the new Health Act which came into force in July of this year.

The general structure of these services remains much the same but changes will be inevitable in the light of experience of the working of the new act.

#### 2. (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

No change to report.

#### (b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

No changes to be reported as yet.

In view of the facilities now available under the new Health Act it is anticipated that larger numbers of patients will be referred to Hospitals etc.

This will, in all probability, necessitate a general reorganisation of the present ambulance facilities with a corresponding extension of the services as experience and expedition will indicate.

#### (c) **Nursing in the home.**

(1) General Nursing. No change.

(2) Nursing of infectious cases—No change.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics—No change.

(e) Hospitals (Public and Voluntary)—No change.

3. There are no Nursing Homes (including Maternity Homes) in the area.

## SECTION "C."

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supplies.

##### Quality and Quantity.

The remarks made in my annual report for the year 1947 are still applicable.

##### Samples Taken.

The following are the results of 46 samples taken from the piped supplies and submitted for Bacteriological examination or Chemical Analyses:—

	Untreated Water.		Treated Water	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological	16	5	17	0
Chemical	7	0	1	0

##### Plumbo-Solvent Action.

I would not expect any of the public piped water supplies to have a marked aggressive action on metals. In two cases the water is passed through a contact chamber of limestone chippings to counteract any acidity in the water.

##### Contamination.

No action has been necessary in respect of any form of contamination of the piped water supplies.

##### Proportion of Houses with Public Supply.

My report for 1947 gave full details for each Parish of "houses connected to a public main", "houses supplied from standpipes" and the "population served" in each case.

A further survey of public water supplies is about to be made by this authority and I hope to include details in my next report.

##### Drainage and Sewerage.

I have in previous reports stated that that sewerage schemes are urgently needed in the various villages in the district and it is disappointing to find that progress in this connection is slow. I would urge the Council to expedite the various sewerage schemes as much as possible.



## Closet Accommodation.

There are no substantial changes to report in this connection and it is unlikely that many conversions will be made until sewerage works are constructed.

## Public Cleansing.

Most of the villages and hamlets in the district are now scavenged weekly by the Council either by there own Contractor or by arrangement with other Anthorities. From time to time small increases are made in the areas which the Council have contracted to scavenge and I think it will be difficult to justify any further substantial expansion of this service which during the year under review cost the Council £1112/0/10d. Most of the refuse, both house refuse and the contents of pail closets, is disposed of at a controlled tip at Carreghofa. The acquisition of additional land for tipping is urgently needed.

## Sanitary Inspections.

The following Table shows the result of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Notices.			
Informal		Statutory	
Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
73	57	9	8

Food Condemnation Certificates issued—10

Quantity of Food condemned:—

Meat and Fats—(112lbs.)

Beef-80lbs.

Ox Tongue-6lbs. (tinned)

Minced Beef-12oz. (tinned) Beef Suet-14lbs.

Note :—There is no slaughtering for sale or manufacture carried on within the area of this authority.

Other Foods—(127½lbs.)

Cod 70lbs.

Prunes 25½lbs.

Tomatoes 24lbs.

Oranges 2lbs. (tinned)

Plums 2lbs. (tinned)

Jam 2lbs. (tinned)

Marmalade 2lbs. (tinned)

## Milk and Dairies Orders.

There are now 612 registered milk producers in the area.

During the year 57 applications for registration were made. The total number of applications granted was 45, several of these having been submitted during the previous years.



In most cases improvements to dairy premises were required upon registration, and the following Table shows the defects remedied during the year, in premises which were registered for milk production :—

Defective Ceilings	...	...	...	...	22
Defective Floors	...	...	...	...	59
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	32
Want of Cooler	...	...	...	...	43
Want of Milk Room	...	...	...	...	40
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	38
Want of Lime Washing	...	...	...	...	35
Other Defects ..	...	...	...	...	129

### **Shops and Offices.**

No action taken during the year.

### **Camping Sites.**

There are no licensed Camping Sites in the district.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No action necessary.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the district.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action necessary.

### **Housing.**

At the end of the year there were 12 recorded cases of overcrowding in the district. There is no doubt however, that if another survey were made, many additional cases would be revealed.

In previous years a number of houses have been reported to the Council as unfit for human habitation. Of these 82 houses are still occupied and there has been little change in this connection during recent years owing to the acute shortage of houses throughout the district. There is no doubt at all that the number of unfit houses in the district greatly exceeds 82 and I hope that it will shortly be possible to undertake the Rural Housing Survey which will reveal the extent to which people are compelled to occupy unfit houses.

## Schools.

There appears to have been no closures of Schools during the year on account of infectious disease.

A few cases of measles were notified as were some mild cases of Scarlet Fever.

The health of school children generally appears to have been good and their nutrition well maintained and hygiene and cleanliness quite satisfactory.

Schools in Llanfair in particular appear to be somewhat congested owing to the large numbers of children now conveyed there from outlying districts. It is understood that plans for a new school are in hand, and with the erection and completion of this work of the school should proceed much more comfortably and pleasantly.

The increase in the numbers of children in these centres of Education has naturally made increased staffs necessary. In view of the housing shortage many members of the teaching staff have experienced much difficulty in obtaining appropriate accommodation.

With completion of plans for the erection of new houses in the Llanfair and the districts it is hoped that this lack of accommodation will shortly be remedied.

## Section "F."

### Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

During the year 55 cases of infectious diseases were notified and of these 6 were cases of Tuberculosis.

The epidemics of measles and whooping cough which were so prevalent during the previous year gradually subsided and accounted for 20 and 7 respectively of the total cases notified while no deaths were due to measles, and from personal observation, the epidemic settled leaving no complications. Whooping Cough appears to have caused the death of an infant of 2 months old.

Eleven cases of pneumonia were notified and accounted for 2 deaths, one of these occurring in an institution.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Active immunisation of children continues to be carried out, by the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff against Diphtheria.

Parents and guardians of children are invited to take their charges to pre-arranged centres where the children can receive their protective doses against Diphtheria.

In a district such as this where distances are great and transport facilities are poor or non-existent some parents find it difficult to attend clinics. In such cases the parents are advised to seek the

aid of the usual family medical attendant who, when in the particular district, would immunize the children.

Parents and Guardians are reminded that young children should should receive a third protective injection when the child or children start their school careers.

The following Tables give details of the diseases (Tuberculosis excepted) notified during the year.

Diseases.	Cases Notified.	Admissions to Hospital.	Deaths.
Measles ...	20	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	9	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	7	—	1
Pneumonia ..	11	2	3
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—
TOTAL ...	49	2	4

### Age Incidence of cases of Infectious Diseases Notified.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65+	Total.
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	1	2	3	11
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	2	6	—	1	—	—	—	—	9
Whooping Cough	—	1	1	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Measles ...	—	—	—	4	—	7	5	3	—	—	1	1	20
Eryesipilas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Total ...	—	1	1	5	2	18	6	4	3	1	4	4	49

Disinfection of infected premises continues to be carried out when and where necessary by your Sanitary Inspectors who, also, and at the time, give instructions in an attempt to limit the spread of infection.

The cases of Scarlet Fever notified appear to have been mild in character and all settled leaving no apparent ill-effects.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations were carried out under the Public Health (Small Pox) Regulations during the year.

No immunisation against Scarlet Fever was carried out during the year.

### Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations (1925) or under section 2 of the Public Health Act (1925).

During the year six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified average age at the time of notification being 24.3 years and ages varied from 9 years to 39 years.



All cases notified were of the Pulmonary Type—Four being Males and Two being Females.

During the year Four deaths were notified as being due to Tuberculosis—Three were Males and One was a Female, all were of the Pulmonary Type and the average age at death being 48 years—the ages varying from 29 years to 63 years.

There were no deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Death rate from Tuberculosis for the year under review would therefore be 0.3 per thousand of the Population.

### Classification of New Cases of and Deaths from Tuberculosis according to Age, Sex, etc.

Age Periods. <i>Years.</i>	—NEW CASES NOTIFIED—				—DEATHS.—			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0— 1 ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1— 5 ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
5—10 ...	1	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
10—15 ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
15—20 ...	—	2	...	—	...	—	...	—
20—25 ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
25—35 ...	1	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
35—45 ...	2	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
45—65 ...	—	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
65+ ...	—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
Totals ...	4	2	Nil		3	1	Nil	

The usual disinfection of infected premises is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, who, at their discretion, destroy material which they consider is heavily infected.

Notification of Tuberculosis appears to be good and all deaths had been previously notified and had been under the supervision of the appropriate authorities for varying periods.

Lack of staff and shortage of beds for the supervision, investigation and treatment of cases of and Tuberculosis continues to hold up work in this connection.

### Laboratory Work and Facilities.

There are no changes to report in this connection.

### Prevention of Blindness.

No change in existing organizations, Hospitals or methods of supervision.



## **Cancer.**

This disease accounted for 25 deaths during the year—eight being males and 17 being females.

The average age at death was 64·6 years and the rate is 2·4 per thousand of the population in the area. This rate does not appear to have varied much for some years.

Operative measures and x-ray therapy are attended with some success provided these measures are instituted as soon as possible.





